

## ARTICLE 59

### REVISED DOG BYLAW

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**1. *Does Concord now require owners to pick up after their dogs?***

No. While many owners do pick up after their dogs and properly dispose of the waste, some do not. Dog waste is frequently found in playgrounds, on sidewalks, cemetery paths and graves, conservation land, public tennis courts, and even at the end of the outfall pipe of the Town's storm drain system. There is no current requirement in the bylaw to prohibit this.

**2. *Does Concord have a leash law?***

No. Concord has a "dog control" bylaw. No leash is required except within the confines of the Cemetery property. Dogs are required to be "under the control" of their owners/keepers. Under the proposed revised bylaw, dogs will be prohibited from the town cemeteries and must be on a leash while walking on a public sidewalk or while attending a public gathering, including organized athletic events, parades, fairs, etc. Dogs must also be held on a leash at Emerson Field during summer camp (July-August weekdays from 9 am to 4 pm).

**3. *May I let my dog off a leash at Emerson Field or Rideout if there is a ball game going on?***

Except during summer camp activities at Emerson, ***if you are able to effectively verbally control your dog*** so that the dog does not interfere with the game or participants, you may let your dog off leash at Emerson or Rideout ***in another area of the park***, away from the ball game. Emerson Field is 14 acres and Rideout is 11 acres.

**4. *What cemeteries are affected by Concord's Dog Bylaw?***

All three of Concord's public cemeteries are covered by the Bylaw – Sleepy Hollow Cemetery on Bedford Street (including the newer Knoll section), the Old Hill Burying Ground (on the hillside overlooking Monument Square), and South Burying Place (Main Street, at the intersection of Keyes Road). St. Bernard's Cemetery, located on Bedford Street, is a private cemetery and not affected by the Town's Bylaws.

**5. *Will I be able to take my dog on the walking paths that are behind Sleepy Hollow Cemetery?***

Yes, as long as you don't bring your dog through the cemetery to access the paths (there are other public access points), and as long as your dog is held firmly on a leash or is under your effective and direct voice control.

**6. *How will the new bylaw be enforced?***

If the bylaw passes and is subsequently approved by the Attorney General, then we will start with increased signage and a public education campaign. Copies of the new bylaw will be distributed to dog owners when licensing their dogs. Dog owners will be given verbal warnings. Continued non-compliance will result in the issuance of a Non-Criminal Disposition ticket by the Animal Control Officer or Police Officers.

**7. *What is the fine for non-compliance?***

Fines for violations of the Dog Bylaw were approved at the 2012 Annual Town Meeting, and are \$25 for the first offense; \$50 for the second offense; and \$100 for the third and each subsequent offense. We are not proposing any changes to these existing fines.